

EVIDENCE OF SIAMESE WORK IN PÊRAK.

Some time ago I obtained possession of a *Kachit**—*i.e.*, scissors for cutting betel-nut—which was found at a depth of about six feet below the surface in a hill-mine near Ipoh in Kinta. This *Kachit* is of quite a different pattern from those in use by the Pêrak Malays, not being fitted with a cutting blade, but having two corrugated surfaces, for the apparent use of crushing the nut instead of cutting it into slices. I have been told that this is a common form of *Kachit* in Siam.

But a more positive item of evidence is an ingot of tin weighing about two *kati*, of semi-elliptical form, which was found near Kwâla Dipang in Kampar, in the workings of a mine; this specimen bears an inscription in what are evidently Siamese characters, as several letters may still be deciphered, but I cannot find anybody in Kinta who is a good enough Siamese scholar to put together enough of the letters to make any sense of them. I have sent these two specimens to the Pêrak Museum at Thaipeng hoping that perhaps somebody may be able to make out the inscription.

A. H.

CURRENCY (NEGRI SEMBILAN).

1 <i>liku</i> †	=	21 cents.
2 „	=	22 „
3 „	=	23 „
1 <i>'ngbharu</i> ‡	=	2½ „
1 <i>liku 'ngbharu</i>	=	52½ „
2 „	=	55 „
<i>S'tâli</i> = <i>s'ngbharu</i>	=	12½ „

* *Kachip* (‡)—ED.

† *Satu lékor* is one way of expressing twenty-one in Malay, *dua lékor* is twenty-two, *tiga lékor* twenty-three, and so on.

‡ *Wang bharu*, “new coin” is the name which was given in Malacca to a small Dutch silver coin no longer current. The phrase is still used to signify 2½ cents.—ED.

<i>S'pérak</i>	=	6 cents.
<i>S'suku</i>	=	25 "
<i>S'wang</i>	=	2 "
<i>S'kupang</i>	=	12½ "
<i>S'omeh (mas)</i>	=	50 "
<i>Omeh dua puluh</i>	=	\$ 7.00
<i>20 omeh</i>	=	10.00
<i>Dua puluh s'rěpi</i>	=	7.00
<i>Dua blas s'rěpi</i>	=	4.00

A man who marries a virgin must pay 20 *s'rěpi* or \$7.00 into the hands of the *Ibu-Bapa* or elders of her *suku*.

A man who marries a widow must pay 12 *s'rěpi* or \$4.00.

A man who abducts a widow must pay 4 *liku s'rěpi* or \$9.30, for a virgin the fine is 48 *s'rěpi* or \$18.30.

R. N. B.

THE PRINCE, OR PRINCESS, OF THE BAMBOO.

In Part I of Vol. XIX (N. S.) of the Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society (January, 1887), there is a translation of a Japanese romance which contains a feature common in Malay romances and legends. The Japanese story of the Old Bamboo-hewer, translated by Mr. DICKINS, opens as follows:—

“Formerly there lived an old man, a bamboo-hewer, who hewed bamboos on the bosky hill-side and manywise he wrought them to serve men’s needs and his name was Sanugi no Miyakko. Now one day while plying the hatchet in a grove of bamboos was he ware of a tall stem, whence streamed forth through the gloom a dazzling light. Much marvelling he drew near to the reed and saw that the glory proceeded from the heart thereof and he looked again and beheld a tiny creature, a palm’s breadth in stature and of rare loveli-